

Senate Meeting
February 6th, 2017
5:30-7:00 pm

Meeting Minutes

- I. Call to Order
 - a. Call to Order – 5:32pm
 - b. Happy New Year
- II. Confirmation Vote for Parliamentarian Appointee – Vedavyas Tungala
 - a. Christian resigned due to internship in FL
 - b. Exec Board has recruited new Parliamentarian – Ved
 - c. Pres calls nominee to floor to introduce himself
 - i. Ved – Brief Intro
 1. PhD Material Science & Engineering Dept
 2. Qualifications
 - a. started @ UNT 2012
 - b. Research Assistant in dept
 - c. Demonstrate lab equip to undergrads
 3. Pres opens up floor to questions
 4. Sen Medina – why work for GSC?
 - a. *Wants to work in multicultural environment; can be a team member & coordinate with other team members to help solve grad student problems*
 5. Sen Cotton – what stage of coursework?
 - a. *Successfully defended in Dec*
 6. Sen Akibar – what experiences do you that prepare you to control/lead Senate meetings?
 - a. *Work with Executive team; prepare agendas for senate; has taken minutes, etc.. for lab meetings in the past*
 7. Outside – member of constituency – what do you see as the biggest challenge, or your greatest strength?
 - a. Strength of communication, approaching disputes/conflicts in spirit of collaboration & teamwork, looking for rational solutions
 - b. Follow up – Clarification: am I correct in believing that you see this role as going beyond the Senate hall?
 8. President -Any additional questions?
 - a. Ved sent to hallway for vote
 - b. Clarification – does parliamentarian need to have been in GSC before being elected?
 - i. Pres – not necessary
 - d. Proposal to elect Ved as GSC parliamentarian
 - i. Favor =27 ; Opposed = 0 ; Abstain = 2
 1. Motion carries

III. Officer Reports

a. President - Seth Ketron

i. Opening applications for NAGPS trips soon

1. LAD in DC in March

a. Those who applied for last trip will have priority

i. Sen Hensley – if we didn't apply last semester, are we automatically in back of line for this semester?

1. Pres – there will be multiple spots available

ii. Sen – do we need to reapply/resubmit app?

1. Pres – we will send an email

ii. NAGPS Call Congress Day

1. Pres – want to get feedback, would engagement be higher if there was a specific room/location? Would it encourage participation?

a. Several senators nodded in agreement

b. Senator – anyone have feedback on having other organizations that overlapped?

c. Senator Akibar – my dept has an informal group within social sciences, so we might be able to get Senators to contact their own orgs to unite/join forces

d. Senator Metras – same comment as Senator Akibar

iii. 2017-2018 Election process will begin within next few weeks

1. If interested, start thinking about it now

2. Must be available thru May 2018 to be eligible

3. Want to plant seed early to make sure everyone is aware

iv. No new legislation submitted for Feb meeting

1. Please feel free to let GSC know if you have formal legislation you would like to introduce

v. Parking Updates

1. More lots have closed

2. IDK what to say about parking....

a. The issue we are currently facing is that the committee is just being told what is being done and asked to gather support rather than being made part of the conversation

b. Ron (Guest) – Why don't they allow permitted drivers to utilize the garages (which are underutilized) until they get the situation sorted out

i. Apparently, there is now a problem with finding spots in the garages now because of the parking situation

c. Nighttime parking issues – same responses – utilize garages

i. What about close spots to buildings (30 minute parking?)

ii. Will continue the conversation with committee

iii. Senator Akibar – spots not labeled well, 15 minute loading/no parking spots in front of building

d. Pres – this is an ongoing issue

- e. Senator – there continues to be problems over by Kerr
 - i. They took away all disabled parking as well
 - 1. Pres – we will followup on these new issues
 - f. Senator Allen – spots switched to faculty/staff without a lot of notification, students ticketed in mass
 - i. Pres – email did go out, but people still upset by changes
 - g. Pres – spots out by Victory remain open, even at peak times. Master plan = push parking out, but students have not caught up
 - i. Senator Akibar – maybe use the open spots to help make judgments re: where to do construction on campus (would make too much sense)
- vi. Student Services fee update
- 1. Made presentation, asked for \$\$\$ for data collection & other activities not covered by current funds
- vii. The Gathering Place
- 1. New opportunity provided on campus
 - 2. Result of planning committee
 - 3. 4-6pm
 - 4. \$8 charge for food; cash bar for beer/wine
 - a. concern re: cover charge, even if people don't want to eat
 - i. Senator Medina – can't control people not eating if they don't pay; not a bad idea/deal, esp. if good food
 - b. Senator Hensley – Clarification on when/where
 - c. Senator Metras – cover charge dependent on utility of space & what time used for
 - d. Ron (Guest) – for faculty & students? How do admin play into this equation?
 - i. Pres – meant for research collaboration, not meant for admin/faculty talks
 - ii. Losing \$100k every year via Avesta; this is meant to be an investment vs. \$\$\$ making
 - iii. Senator Medina – no knowledge prior to email, maybe more press?
 - 1. No grand opening yet
 - iv. Senator Allen – can we bring non-students
 - 1. ??? yet doubtful they would send people away if paying \$8
- viii. Frisco Campus
- 1. President - Admin being aggressive in what is being offered @ new campus, trying to be competitive with other universities in the area
 - 2. If you get a chance, go check out the campus

- b. VPAF - Kent Souriyasak
 - i. Office Hours
 - 1. Please fill out ASAP, want hours posted soon
 - 2. Training for card swipe, but in meantime have sign in sheet on front desk
 - ii. Over break, listed all funds in spreadsheets
 - 1. Present F2016 budget
 - a. All exec's underspent on their budgets
 - b. \$5-7k leftover will be moved to emergency fund in case of last-minute expenses
 - c. Overall looking good for end of year
 - d. Please fill out forms for trips ASAP to help with budgeting funds
 - c. VPPO - Giselle Greenridge
 - i. Tour of Colleges
 - 1. COE, Visual Arts
 - 2. Mtg with Texas Tech earlier today
 - 3. LAD in March (11th-14th)
 - 4. April dates for Austen coming soon
 - 5. Food Drive (started 1/24 – 2/13)
 - a. Bin on 2nd floor for donations to food bank
 - 6. Welcome Back breakfast 11-1pm Union 333
 - 7. Charity Reception (next Monday 4-6pm)
 - 8. Coffee @ DP 9-11am Next Tuesday
 - a. Links to events & signup emailed out last week
 - 9. Jeff from Career Center available in GSC office every Wednesday (noon-1:30pm)
 - 10. Library personnel would like to meet with GSC senators to discuss issues with 1st floor stuff
 - a. Friday 2/10 @ 4pm
 - b. Tuesday 2/14 @ 3pm
 - i. Senator Metras – how long (1 hour)
 - ii. How many senators available???
 - 1. Giselle will communicate with library & send out email
 - 11. Senator Akibar – Food Drive, will they accept monetary donations?
 - a. Giselle - No, only food donations
 - d. VPCM - Ricky Ferguson
 - i. Not present - sick
 - e. Parliamentarian – Ved
 - i. President: Any comments; Ved - no
- IV. Internal Committee Reports
- a. Performance, Oversight and Monitoring
 - i. Senator Kelly (Chair)

- ii. Thanks for participating in survey over break, will have more info @ next meeting
 - b. External Relations and Outreach
 - i. Senator Menking
 - ii. Have contacted several depts. Across campus & student org's
 - c. Planning and Program Development
 - i. Senator Medina (Chair)
 - ii. Food Drive
 - iii. Charity Reception (4:30-6pm)
 - 1. Primarily non-perishables & toiletries
 - 2. Please come! Same time next week
 - iv. Committee discussing issues for next year, more info to come
- V. Old Business
 - a. Bill F2016-10
 - i. Senators Tyler Yates & Tyler Hicks
 - 1. Recap bill – Senator Yates
 - 2. Recap changes in language
 - a. Some dept have systems, not universal
 - i. Attempt by GSC to help all depts. Develop systems
 - b. Took name out of bill, can have discussion of name if bill passed
 - 3. Questions
 - a. Senator Akibar – wasn't here for December, what feedback provided?
 - i. Looked at current programs, but not all students aware/know of resources
 - ii. Helps connect students to resources currently available on campus
 - b. Senator Metras – last meeting, discussed contacting organizations for information/permission
 - i. Senator Yates – did contact orgs, most feedback was just to send students their way... not creating new org, just linking students with resources
 - c. Senator Hensley – typically speaker comes to department to discuss these resources, does this do the same thing
 - i. Senator Yates – never came to my department; even some faculty are unaware. Just to help fill in the gaps where some are not getting the necessary information
 - ii. Senator Hensley – it would be GSC working with CARE team?
 - 1. Not really – just helping get the information out to students, not a formal agreement with CARE team
 - 2. Senator Hensley – so doing the same thing as CARE team?

- a. Senator Yates – helps to get more information out there (Again) to ensure students get more access to the information vs. just during first weeks
 - 3. Sen Bryan – Would training be involved within bill?
 - a. Not currently in bill, but not a lot of training for grad students. This bill intended to get info out there, not necessarily train students on how to counsel students
 - b. Sen Hicks – good point for consideration within committee appointed to follow through with this (if passed)
 - 4. Sen Akibar – if students will come anyway, whats the need for a sticker?
 - a. Tyler – helps overcome action problem, in that it helps student identify you as safe place to avoid them not reporting issues
 - b. Sen Hicks – also takes burden off students shoulders even without them voicing info
 - iii. Senator Anderson – motion to vote
 - 1. Senator Joshi seconded
 - b. Proposal to Vote
 - i. Favor =25; Opposed = 0 ; Abstain = 2
 - 1. Motion carries
 - ii. Vote on Bill
 - 1. Favor = 25; Opposed = 0; Abstain = 2
- VI. New Business
 - a. None for meeting
- VII. Open Floor
 - a. Ron Wade (PhD in Sociology)
 - i. Issue he'd like to discuss
 - ii. Before start, 2 notes –
 - 1. I wish I'd been involved in GSC when I started
 - 2. A lot of talk re: faculty & staff during meeting
 - a. What Im going to describe, I don't think it's a faculty, staff, or student problem
 - b. I encourage to add "Admin" into conversation
 - iii. Brief History of Who I Am
 - 1. Came to UNT after 4 other careers; 73 years old
 - 2. PhD Candidate (Completed in 2013)

3. Finishing up Dissertation, grad exp in summer/fall 2017
4. History – owned chain of auto service stations
 - a. Didn't want to be looked down on forever because of grease on hands
 - b. Felt as though he was a 2nd class citizen
5. Started @ Aurora Univ (Computer Science/IT)
6. Went on to establish consulting firm
 - a. Traveled throughout the world doing trainings
7. Wife grew frustrated with traveling
 - a. Moved to eSystems company in Garland, teaching same trainings; then laid off
8. Lockheed Martin – fighter
 - a. Weapons Coordinator, Contract --- Salaried
9. Went back to CCCC to complete undergrad
10. Came on to UNT
 - a. Granted credit for 90 hours, but 30 hour requirement
11. Spring 2013 –
 - a. Sociology Dept transferred to College of A&S
 - b. Everything changing (location, setup, etc)
 - c. 2 Different Advising paths in place during this transition
 - d. 2014 – A&S
 - i. took 3 courses, none in Sociology
 - ii. 2014 – completed all requirements
 1. interdisciplinary approach
 - iii. Dissertation Hours (S/F 2014-2016)
 - iv. Received memo Feb 2 that committee doesn't meet requirements, now stating that committee must have ½ from Sociology Dept (new catalog)
 1. Now must change ¾ of committee, do new degree plan, or go to UTD
 - v. Senator Akibar – infrastructure shouldn't change that much in split of A&S
 - vi. Senator Anderson – why not add more committee members?
 1. Disadvantages – change coursework requirements, may need to take more classes – 2010 catalog less restrictive
 2. Senator Lightbourne – admin not willing to honor 2010 catalog/degree plan?
 - a. Toulouse has signed off on coursework; issue lies in departmental faculty requirements (faculty don't like dissertation topic)
 3. Senator Medina – have you appealed decision?

- a. Appeal – Helen Potts (appeal email sent today)
 - 4. President – whole point: requirements unclear, restrictive, unfair
 - a. Need for senators to sponsor legislation to cover these issues
 - b. Senator Guill –
 - i. Recording hours,
 - ii. Personal email from Smatresk, more lines for department
 - 1. Problems with terminal masters programs financial aid across campus
 - iii. Problems are being fixed currently
 - 1. President didn't know fewer funding opportunities over summer
 - iv. If anyone needs document, contact Senator Guill
 - c. Motion to Adjourn
 - i. Motion –Sen Akibar ; Second – Sen Metras
 - ii. Favor = 27; Opposed = 0 ; Abstain = 0
- VIII. Adjourn
- a. Meeting Adjourned 6:56pm